

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETECTING AND INDICATING FAULTS
ON A MOTHERBOARD**

ABSTRACT

[0023] An apparatus and a method of the present invention provide diagnostics to detect faults on the motherboard of a computer system and to indicate the faults without having operating system fully functioning. When power is applied to the motherboard, a visual indicator may be turned on. After diagnostics performs a successful initialization of the motherboard and onboard integrated circuits, the visual indicator may be turned off. The faults on the mother board may be isolated from faults of other components in the computer system so that the user can detect the motherboard problem easily. Further, the visual indicator may flash if the diagnostics detect problems in the memory subsystem. The apparatus and the method of the present invention may require few modifications to the computer system thus incurring very small cost.